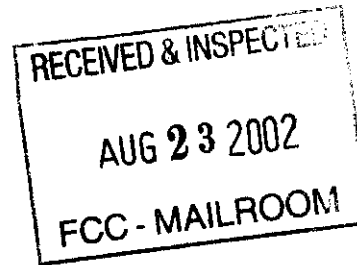


*Lake County School District R-1**Leadville, Colorado 80461*

Superintendent  
**DR. BETTE K. BULLOCK**  
 March 7, 2002

The Honorable Magalie Roman Salas  
 Office of the Secretary  
 Federal Communications Commission  
 445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.-Portals  
 Washington, D.C. 20554



Administrative Assistant  
**NOREEN FLORES**

**WC DOCKET NO. 02-189**

Dear Ms. Salas,

On behalf of the Lake County School District R-1, I am writing to you to express full support for Qwest's application to re-enter the long distance business in Colorado. We believe increased competition will provide our members and others in the community with broader choices, lower prices, better service and exciting new products and services.

As an organization which represents the education of the children of Lake County employing and an employer of about 150 people (both professional and non-professional), we believe increased long distance competition will also generate increased investment in Colorado and further enhance an already favorable business climate for every community in the state. Increased competition will strengthen our local ability to recruit new economic development prospects, expand existing businesses and create new jobs. Competitive long distance telecommunications services are essential to the economic success of our community and the prosperity of the entire state of Colorado.

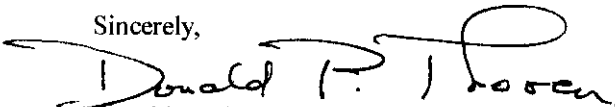
We understand that consumers in some other states where the Federal Communications Commission has approved increased long distance competition, including New York, Texas, Massachusetts, Oklahoma and Kansas, are experiencing the benefits and lower prices from the entry of state's local phone company. We are anxious for Colorado consumers to enjoy the same positive benefits when Qwest is allowed to compete for long distance services.

We are aware that the Colorado's Public Utilities Commission has worked diligently for the past two and half years to ensure that Qwest has complied with all of the requirements of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, enabling their entry into the long distance market. We also understand that extensive testing by an impartial party was performed to verify that Qwest's network is fair and open to all long distance service providers.

Therefore, we urge the Federal Communications Commission to act quickly on Qwest's application in Colorado and approve the company's re-entry in the long distance business so that the positive benefits of full competition can soon be realized by all the citizens in the state.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this request. If you have any questions, please call me at 719-486-6800.

Sincerely,

  
 Donald P. Thoren  
 Member of the Lake County School Board

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